



BRIAN SULLIVAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

A REPORT FROM THE 2002 SESSION

21ST DISTRICT • SOUTHWEST SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Winter 2002

Dear Neighbor:

My name is Brian Sullivan, and I'm very honored to serve as one of your state representatives. I truly appreciate your time and interest in state government.

This is my first legislative session, but I clearly see that we have serious issues to address on behalf of families in our communities.

- **The Economy.** There's no denying the fact that our current economic downturn is hurting our families and businesses. I will work hard to ensure a stronger economy through job creation and innovative public and private partnerships. Together we can make a difference for Washington!
- **Transportation.** Like you, I am fed up with gridlock on our state and federal highways — not to mention the congestion on our city streets and county roads, and the bottlenecks in practically every other part of our transportation system. We must do everything we can to keep our families moving swiftly and safely to home, work, school, and other destinations. We've also got to make sure that our Washington products move quickly to port and market.
- **Prescription Drugs.** People shouldn't have to choose between buying groceries — or buying prescription drugs. This choice, however, is all too real for many people — especially senior citizens, who've invested so much of their lives in making our communities a better place for everyone. We have to ensure that all our Washington families can maintain their quality of life.

► THE ECONOMY:

Our state is facing some harsh economic realities, and it is people who make their home here that are feeling the brunt of our state's worst recession in 20 years.

More than 12,000 people in Washington lost their jobs between this past August and September — and by October our unemployment rate of 6.6 percent was one of our nation's highest. Our economic downturn has significantly impacted our state budget, opening up a \$1.2 billion gap between the state operating budget and the revenue needed to pay for its programs and services.

We must put people front and center in our efforts to improve our state's economic climate and balance the budget.

I will work hard to bring jobs to Washington. Presently, Boeing is poised to design and build the Sonic Cruiser (a \$9 billion research and development project). We need to build a trusting relationship with Boeing to ensure local family-wage jobs — not just Boeing-jobs, but all the other jobs that Boeing-jobs create.

Governor Locke has introduced a supplemental-budget plan that would cut more than \$560 million out of current state expenditures. Although his proposal involves no increase in general taxes, it includes some significant cuts in services that many people in our community find essential.

We must carefully consider these proposals, and I truly appreciate your thoughtful suggestions and input in this process.

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► **TRANSPORTATION:**

There is no doubt that transportation is one of the top challenges our state currently faces.

In southwest Snohomish County, we endure some of the worst traffic congestion in the state. When you spend as much time in traffic jams as we do, you can see the need for fixing this highway mess.

Families need to be able to have time together — and not be stranded in traffic. Businesses need to know that their workers — and their customers — can get to and from the offices and stores in a reasonable amount of time.

The Legislature has punted on this issue long enough. This year, we need to find the right combination to end the gridlock and keep our families and businesses moving.

The governor's proposal, which I call a good starting point for discussion, would raise almost \$8.5 billion in new transportation revenue during the next decade. Highways, rail systems, park-and-ride lots, ferries, and vanpools would receive the bulk of help in his plan. Our state gas tax, which hasn't increased in more than 10 years, would go up by nine cents over three years to pay a big part of this bill. Another idea would boost the gas tax by four cents statewide — and then ask voters to consider raising it by another four cents. In Snohomish County, people would have the option of voting to raise additional revenues to fund other local road projects. Still another suggestion would send the entire transportation-funding question to the voters.

► **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS:**

We need to keep prescription drugs affordable and accessible.

It's sad how much people have to pay for the medicine their doctors prescribe. This isn't a partisan issue, either — it affects everyone.

I will support a bipartisan plan aimed at making these drugs affordable for all people. (This measure did not quite get through the Legislature last year.) The goal is to guarantee that consumers, health-care providers, and health-care purchasers have all the information they need to make the right choice on the most therapeutic and cost-effective use of prescription drugs.

► **PLEASE ALWAYS
STAY IN TOUCH WITH ME!**

Thank you again for taking the time to read my newsletter.

I know we won't always agree on every issue, but I always welcome your comments and questions. **Please keep in touch with me this session. We really are in this together!**

With every best wish,



Brian Sullivan
State Representative
21st Legislative District

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